



PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Michael D. Hooven, et al.

Serial No.: 10/015,862

Filed: December 12, 2001

Group Art No.: 3739

Examiner: Rosiland S. Kearney

For: TRANSMURAL ABLATION DEVICE
WITH SPRING LOADED JAWS

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
FILED WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of the documents, except U.S. Application 2002/0091384 A1, is provided in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/032,378, which is relied upon for an earlier effective filing date of the present application. U.S. Application 2002/0091384 A1 is the published application of U.S. Patent

Application Serial No. 10/032,378, and thus this was not enclosed in Application Serial No. 10/032,378. Accordingly, a copy of U.S. Application 2002/0091384 is provided with this Request for Continued Examination.

No inference should be drawn that any method disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

This Request for Continued Examination is being filed after the mailing date of after the Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, a check for the amount of \$375.00, the fee for the submission of this Request for Continued Examination, is contained along with this cover letter and the Information Disclosure Statement. Additionally, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 50-1039. (A duplicate of this document is enclosed herewith.)

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 10, 2003

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